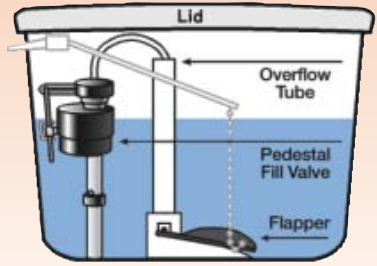


Toilet Leaks Can Cost You

You’ve probably heard your toilet “running” on occasion, but did you know that toilet leaks are often silent? Even silent toilet leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water a year and cost you hundreds of dollars in annual water and sewer charges. Toilets should be checked for silent leaks once a year. It’s easy to do! To check for toilet leaks, follow these simple steps:

- 1. Remove the tank lid.
- 2. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet (available at home improvement stores) to the water in the *tank* to turn it a color. Don’t worry. It won’t stain your bowl.
- 3. Wait 5-10 minutes. Do not flush the toilet during this time. If you see color in the toilet *bowl*, you’ve got a leak.



Most toilet leaks are caused by a worn flapper, which can be easily replaced for less than \$10. For more information on toilets and toilet repair, visit www.savingwater.org.

Free Water-Saving Toilets

Seattle Public Utilities now offers free, water-efficient toilets to income-qualified homeowners.

By installing these efficient toilets, you can save thousands of gallons of water and more than a hundred dollars each year.

How do I qualify?

- Reside within Seattle city limits
- Currently live in the home you own
- Have existing toilets installed before 1994
- Earn less than the amounts listed at the right to receive all services at no charge, including up to two toilets, toilet installation, showerheads, and aerators

Household Size	Yearly Income
1 person	\$16,350
2 persons	\$18,700
3 persons	\$21,050
4 persons	\$23,350
5 persons	\$25,250
6 persons	\$27,100
7 + persons	Call us

Homeowners who earn more than the incomes listed here may qualify for free fixtures and discounted installation, depending on income.

To receive your free toilets and services, schedule an appointment or learn more, call (206) 448-5751, or visit www.minorhomerepair.org and click under “Free Toilet Program.”



You Can Stop Graffiti

Tired of graffiti in your neighborhood? The Red Wagon Paint Out Program provides free materials and training to volunteers who want to remove unsightly graffiti in their community. Call (206) 684-3056 for more information or to sign up today!

Thank You!

Last year, Seattle residents and businesses helped make 50 million pounds of compost for local parks and gardens by putting leftover food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels and pizza boxes in their yard and food waste carts – instead of the landfill.

This month, Seattle and local retailers are offering great discounts to recognize Seattle’s 100,000 composting households (see other side). Just check the pledge below, cut it out, and bring it to any local participating Seattle retailer. Offers end June 30, 2008.

☐ YES! I recycle my leftover food scraps, pizza boxes, and food-soiled paper in my food and yard waste cart, or compost them at home.

Not a subscriber to food and yard waste service? Visit www.seattle.gov/util or call (206) 684-3000 to sign up today.



ECRWSS
Postal Customer

PERMIT NO. 6000
SEATTLE, WA
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
PRESORTED STANDARD

700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Seattle
Public
Utilities

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.
Vê dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURB WASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Summer 2008



Seattle Water Makes the Grade

The 2007 Drinking Water Quality Report has been released and the findings show that Seattle has some of the best tasting, purest-source water in the nation. The report shows that Seattle’s tap water is also one of the best deals around, costing less than one-third of one cent per gallon. Compare that to your favorite bottled water, which costs around 79 cents per pint. Bottled water is not any more pure or safe than Seattle tap water.

There is also a major environmental impact from purchasing bottled water. Nationwide, plastic bottles require 17 million barrels of oil to produce. Most end up in the garbage, not in recycling, and to top it off, it takes three liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water.

A good idea is to purchase a reusable water bottle – lightweight stainless steel is the best – and drink Seattle tap water.

savvy gardener a better way to beautiful

Water Right to Grow Healthy Plants



Watering less often, but deeper, helps grow healthier plants that are more resilient to drier conditions.

Some tips to remember:

Before you water: Let the soil dry out an inch or two below the surface. Dig into the soil with a spade or trowel to check.

At least one hour after you water: Dig into the soil again to see how deeply the water penetrated. If it did not moisten the area in the root zone you may need to increase your watering time, or decrease it next time if the area is well saturated.

See our new fact sheet “**Watering to Establish Your New Plants**” for specific guidelines on watering plants in the first three years after you plant them. Tips for established gardens are included, too.

You can download a PDF version of it at www.savingwater.org (Click on “Conserve Outside” and then on “Watering”), or call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 to request a free copy.



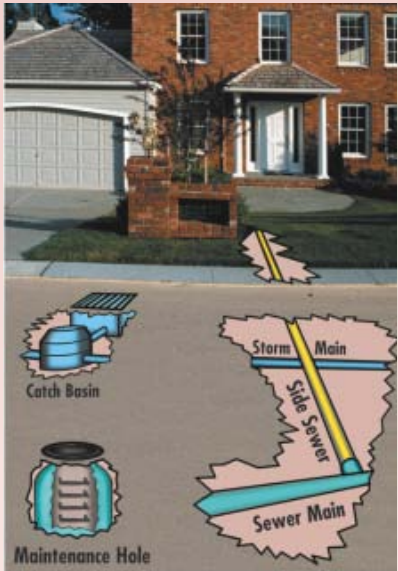
City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities
Chuck Clarke, Director

PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA
98124-4018

www.seattle.gov/util

(206) 684-3000
(206) 233-7241 TTY



What Is a Side Sewer?

Why should I care? Homeowners and building owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing this section of pipe that carries wastewater from your home or building's plumbing system to the public sewer main (usually located under the street).

Replacement is expensive. A side sewer that fails has the potential to cost property owners thousands of dollars to replace. As the property owner, you are responsible for replacing any sidewalks and roadway removed during the repair. When buying a property, it is recommended that you have the side sewer inspected for any problems in the foreseeable future.

Maintenance is important. The primary problem associated with side sewers is sewer backups into homes or businesses. Some causes and solutions include:

- Tree root penetrating pipes, especially older ones made of clay. Rooter services can unclog a side sewer. Just be sure to have the line cleared to the city's main sewer line.
- Fats, oils and grease improperly disposed of down drains also cause blockages. They instead should be properly disposed of in a sealed container in your trash.

Who should I call? It is best to call a private company first, such as a rooter service or plumber, because the problem is likely in your private side sewer line and critical time may be wasted contacting the city. However, if sewage is coming into your home when you are not using water, you should call for a Seattle Public Utilities' maintenance crew immediately at **(206) 386-1800**.

Too Big to Toss?

If you have a large item such as a couch, bed or dishwasher and it's in no condition for selling, exchanging or donating to charity, call **(206) 684-3000** and request a bulky item collection. We will pick up the item from your curb for a \$25 fee (\$31 for items containing gases, such as refrigerators) and save you the hassle of driving to the transfer station.

The North and South Recycling and Disposal stations accept bulky items for \$25 per item, Monday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Keep Alleys & Meters Clear!

Overgrown bushes, tree limbs and weeds often prevent garbage collection and proper water meter reading. Please help out this summer by keeping your branches and other vegetation trimmed and maintained.



Corey's Compost Coupons

To recognize Seattle residents for helping reduce garbage in the landfill by turning their food scraps into compost, the City of Seattle and local businesses are offering special discounts for a limited time.

- ◆ **Julia's Restaurants:** \$10 off your entire bill at our Queen Anne, Wallingford, or Broadway locations (not valid with any other offer, must be used with purchase of \$30 or more, valid Monday – Friday).
- ◆ **Goods for the Planet:** Get 20% off an Endurance stainless steel kitchen compost pail (while supplies last), or 20% off an Earth Machine backyard compost bin, or 25% off both when you buy them together. Store located at 525 Dexter Avenue North.
- ◆ **Victrola Coffee Roasters:** Buy one tall coffee or tea beverage, get one tall beverage free at our 310 East Pike Street and 411 15th Avenue East locations.

Fill out the pledge on the back side, cut out and redeem these offers during the month of June.

West Nile Virus Precautions

Warmer temperatures signal the beginning of mosquito season and that means taking precautions against West Nile Virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease. WNV can infect birds, horses and other animals, as well as people.

In 2006, Washington State reported its first confirmed human WNV infections as well as several bird and horse infections in the state.

What is the risk? Most people bitten by an infected mosquito don't get sick, but 20 percent of people bitten experience mild to severe flu-like symptoms. Less than one percent of those who experience symptoms develop a life-threatening illness. People of any age can get WNV, but people over age 50 are more at risk for developing the more serious illness, and this risk increases with age.

WNV is a preventable illness and we can all do our part to prevent infection. Covering your skin and wearing insect repellent, and eliminating standing water that can breed mosquitoes are the best ways to reduce the risk of infection.

To get more information please visit **www.seattle.gov/util** and then click on "About West Nile Virus" or call Public Health's West Nile Virus hotline at **(206) 205-3883**.



Dear Evelyn: How do I control odors and pests in my food and yard waste cart?

Food waste is a very important resource to get out of the landfill and make into compost, so thank you for making the effort. Here are some steps you can take:

1. Keep the kitchen food scraps container sealed with a good lid. If you use newspaper or uncoated paper bags to wrap scraps, take them out to the cart immediately. If you use an approved compostable bag, be sure to keep it contained in the kitchen or take it out often.
2. Treat your food scraps as "leftovers" and put them in your freezer until your collection day.
3. Bury the food scraps under layers of yard waste in the cart—don't leave them sitting on top. Put a layer of grass clippings, shredded paper or damp newspaper over the material in your cart.
4. Try sprinkling baking soda in your kitchen food scraps container to reduce odors.
5. Wash your kitchen container out thoroughly with detergent and water after each use.

For a list of more pest prevention tips and food scrap storage ideas, visit **www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste**.

Dear Evelyn: Please remind me which bags are OK for the food and yard waste cart and which are OK for my recycling cart.

Food and Yard Waste Cart: The only acceptable bags in your food and yard waste include uncoated (no shine) paper bags, wax paper bags, and approved compostable bags. NO plastic bags are allowed, even those labeled biodegradable or corn-based.

Approved compostable bags include only the following brands: BioBags, Eco-Safe 6400, Al-Pack, and Nature Friendly. BioBags are currently available at PCC, Goods for the Planet, Whole Foods Market, Madison Market, and QFC. Eco Safe bags can be found at Bernie and Boys, and Bert's Red Apple. You can also order kitchen-sized compostable bags by going to **www.cedar-grove.com** and clicking on "Product List." A list of accepted compostable bags and purchase locations can be found online at **seattle.gov/util/foodwaste** or by calling **(206) 684-3000**.

Recycling: All clean coated and uncoated paper bags are recyclable. If you put plastic bags in your recycling cart, be sure you stuff them into one bag and tie it securely to avoid street litter and recycling machinery jams. Do not put single plastic bags in the cart. Don't place recyclables in a bag and throw it in the cart—workers at the recycling plant can't easily identify and sort them when they're bagged. Use clear plastic bags to recycle paper confetti or cross-cut shredded paper.

Recycle only clean shopping, newspaper and drycleaner bags. No produce or zip lock/sandwich type bags are accepted, due to possible food contamination.

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241.
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.